the *tharavila* or ground value of a large extent of reclamations from the Vembanad lake had been brought to account in 1089, while there was no corresponding amount under this item to be included in the demand for 1090. Including the arrear demand of Rs. 98,393, the total demand for 1090 was Rs. 36,83,191, of which a sum of Rs. 35,60,061 was collected and Rs. 14,055 written off, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,09,075 for recovery at the close of the year. The collections under current demand rose from 98 to 99 per cent. The increase in the pending balance was only apparent, as the bulk of it consisted of the *tharavila* charged on puduval lands, which was allowed to be paid in subsequent years. The value of properties brought to sale was only ·1 per cent of the total collections of the year. Early in 1088, Mr. R. Mahadeva Aiyar, Dewan Peishkar, was placed on special duty to revise the forms of revenue accounts, registers and returns in the village, taluk and Division offices, and to compile a Land Revenue Manual. Revised account forms, etc., were prescribed, with the approval of the Government, and their introduction was entrusted to the Division Peishkars. The Land Revenue Manual, which consists of five volumes, has also been finished. The first three volumes which are of immediate use to the department, were printed and issued during the year, while the printing of the two remaining volumes is nearing completion. Government have placed on record their appreciation of the thorough and satisfactory manner in which Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar discharged the important special duty entrusted to him. The variations in the extent of, and the demand on, the Sirkar and Devaswom lands, since the Revenue Settlement, were carefully scrutinised and the *ayacut* demand brought up to the close of 1089. The system of levying court fees on applications for the lease, or the transfer of registry, of Kandukrishi lands, was abolished. The rate of *tharavila* on puduval lands in some of the pakuthies of the Chengannur taluk was further reduced, by way of relief to the ryots. The system of imposing prohibitory assessment on cardamom lands unauthorisedly occupied in the Devicolam Division was done away with. Recently, the *tharavila* on these cardamom lands has been allowed to be paid in six instalments, instead of four as before. The Government trust that these measures, intended to ease the burden of the ryots, will have beneficial effect.

11. **Survey.**—The operations of the Survey Department showed progress, both in miscellaneous cadastral survey and in the re-survey of the Nedumangad taluk. Most of the Tahsildars were trained both in chain and theodolite survey, and arrangements have been made for the training of the remaining Tahsildars. It has been laid down that no Tahsildar will be confirmed in his office, till he acquires an adequate knowledge of survey. The taluk survey schools were abolished and a central survey school was opened at Nedumangad for the training of village subordinates and private candidates, under the supervision of the officer in charge of the Nedumangad re-survey party.

12. **Forests.**—The total area of reserved forests at the end of the year was 2,344 square miles and 181 acres, and the total area of reserved lands, 124 square miles and 241 acres. The progress made in the work of forest settlement was slightly better than in the previous year. It is expected that all the pending cases will be disposed of before the close of 1091. The year was favourable for natural reproduction. An additional area of 307 acres of teak was newly opened, and the existing plantations covering an area of 3,487 acres were maintained. The holding of an annual Forest Conference was sanctioned and the first conference was held in the Conservator's office in 1090, at which several important questions relating to the conservation of forests and the development of forest revenue were discussed. The retail sale of timber to *bona fide* consumers at tariff rates was sanctioned. The procedure to be adopted in regard to the issue of free passes for the removal of timber from registered holdings was simplified, and applications for such passes have been exempted from the payment of court fees. The tariff rates and seigniorage on timber and other forest produce have been revised since the close of the year. The system of working down timber in the Devicolam Division on the *mel-labham* system was abolished, and certain modifications have been made in the grazing rules. Government are aware that, in the forests of the State covering nearly a third of the entire area, they have a valuable asset, whose potentialities are immense. It is satisfactory to find that the gross revenue from the department has been steadily increasing from Rs. 8,68,716 in 1088 to Rs. 13,99,720 in 1090, *i. e.*, by 61·1 per cent. Though the net revenue of

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the department showed a decline from Rs. 5,64,460 in 1089 to Rs. 5,40,839 in 1090, it will be seen that the fall was only apparent, as there was a sum of Rs. 2,08,053 outstanding at the close of the year, the major portion of which has been realised in 1091. I am not a believer in the virtue of any abnormal net revenue from this department, as the key-note of successful forest administration is a liberal expenditure of money in conserving the forests, so as to ensure an unfailing supply of timber for all time. The department is now provided with a trained, competent and adequate staff. Four of the superior officers of the department had their training in Europe, sixteen in Dehra Dun, three in Poona and eleven in Coimbatore: With the exception of the Shendurni Working Circle and the Teak Plantations, all the reserves are now worked only under the old scheme, without any carefully thought-out working plan. The working plan reports in respect of several reserves are under preparation and the Government have directed the Conservator to see to their early submission. The question of the extension of forest communications is also engaging attention and the Government will not stint the necessary economic expenditure in this direction.

13. **Salt.**—The total quantity of salt consumed fell from 9,81,454 maunds to 9,67,441 maunds and the average consumption per head of population from 23·7 lbs. to 23·3 lbs. The war affected the purchasing power of the poorer classes even in respect of salt and hence the decline. The area of salt pans worked in South Travancore was 295 acres against 305 acres in 1089, the Tattarippu Odai factory having been abandoned by the licensees. The total out-turn of home-made salt fell from 5,39,521 to 3,41,639 maunds. This heavy decline in the out-turn was due to the abnormal rainfall during the North-East Monsoon, which retarded the commencement of the manufacturing operations in Thye. In view of the doubtful advantage of importing large quantities of Tuticorin salt, the import of this article was restricted to a lakh of maunds during the year. It is anticipated that the policy of encouraging the extension of salt manufacture in South Travancore, if steadily followed, will result in making Travancore self-sufficient in regard to her salt supply.

14. **Abkari.**—The contract distillery supply system in regard to arrack, under which the right of manufacturing arrack is separated from the right of vend, and the latter right sold by auction, shop by shop, was extended to the whole State except the Devicolam taluk, while the independent shop system in regard to toddy, with its accompaniment of tree-tax, was extended to the taluks of Changanachery, Kottayam, Ettumanur, Minachil and Peermade. The taluks of Shertalay (except that portion of it which forms part of the town of Alleppey), Vaikam, Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha, Kunnatnad, Alangad and Parur alone remain under the old taluk contract system. There was no sale of toddy in the Devicolam taluk. Unlike in the Madras Presidency where liquor shops are annually sold by auction, the abkari contracts in the State are given for two years at a time. With each renewal of the biennial contracts, a systematic reduction is being effected in the number of shops, and the price of liquor is increased as far as possible. In connection with the reduction of country-liquor shops, the following figures will be interesting :—

Year.	*Number of shops.*
1083	7,050
1084	5,103
1086	4,634
1088	2,462
1090	2,273

It will be seen that, in the course of seven years, the number of these shops in the State has been reduced by 68 per cent. The number of toddy shops in the excise area also fell from 1704 in 1089 to 1531 in 1090. The rates of still-head duty were raised in the year by 10 annas per proof gallon, both in regard to cocoanut-toddy arrack and jaggery arrack. The tree-tax rules were revised and the rates increased in 1090. The proverthies of Parassala, Kollayil and Kulattur in the Neyyattinkara taluk, which had been exempted from the operation of the sweet toddy rules in 1085,

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